

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 02947 210222Z

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ACTION SIG-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 /009 W
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R 180410Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8672

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EYES ONLY FOR ACTING IG YOST FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AAUD BM
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR AUDIT

REF: A. STATE 224601
B. BANGKOK 16406

1. RSO KELLY'S REPORT (REF B), WHICH I HAVE JUST RECEIVED, WILL PROBABLY HAVE HELPED YOU MAKE UP YOUR MIND WHETHER AUDIT IS JUSTIFIED. AS TO DOLLAR VALUE POTENTIALLY OR ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED, KELLY'S REPORT SUGGESTS PAST LOSSES MIGHT HAVE AMOUNTED TO SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS. WHAT FUTURE EFFECTS MIGHT BE IF WE DID NOT PURSUE MATTER TO LOGICAL CONCLUSION CAN ONLY BE GUESSED AT. AS TO WHETHER INVENTORY AND PROPERTY RECORDS ARE ACCURATE AND AVAILABLE ENOUGH TO PROVIDE A BASIS FOR AUDIT, I CAN ONLY CITE THE JUDGMENT OF MY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, REINFORCED BY THE OUTSIDE OPINION OF RSO KELLY, THAT AN AUDIT WOULD BE POSSIBLE AND DESIRABLE. THE FACT THAT RSO KELLY WAS ABLE TO MAKE SOME USE OF THE INVENTORY CARDS IN HIS OWN INVESTIGATIONS IS EVIDENT FROM HIS REPORT. IF OUR RECORDS ARE NOT ACCURATE ENOUGH FOR AN AUDIT, THEN I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IT, AND WOULD WELCOME HELP IN IMPROVING THEM.

2. IN THUS RECOMMENDING AN AUDIT, I DO NOT WISH TO SUGGEST THAT A FULL INVESTIGATION, ALONG THE LINES LAUNCHED BY RSO KELLY, IS NOT ALSO CR ORDER. FRANKLY, UNTIL WE GOT INTO THIS PROBLEM, I HAD ASSUMED THAT AN AUDIT AND AN INVESTIGATION WOULD NORMALLY GO

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HAND IN HAND IN SITUATIONS LIKE THIS. THAT IS APPARENTLY NOT THE

CASE; AND IF ON THE BASIS OF YOUR READING OF RSO KELLY'S REPORT YOU CONCLUDE THAT THE "INVESTIGATORY APPROACH" IS ALL THAT IS REQUIRED OR JUSTIFIED, I WILL OF COURSE DEFER TO YOUR JUDGMENT. IN ANY CASE, WHETHER AN AUDIT IS TO BE CONDUCTED OR NOT, I MUST PUT IN A VERY STRONG PLEA FOR OUTSIDE HELP IN CONDUCTING A FULL INVESTIGATION. WE ARE THREE OFFICERS SHORT IN GENERAL SERVICES; IT WOULD BE UNFAIR TO EXPECT KOZLOWSKI TO CARRY ANY SUBSTANTIAL PART OF THE INVESTIGATORY BURDEN, AND IN FACT TO PUT THIS BURDEN ON THE NEWLY-ASSIGNED GSO, KOZLOWSKI'S REPLACEMENT, OR ANY OTHER OF MY PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED STAFF COULD INVOLVE THEM IN TENSE SITUATIONS PLACING A CONSIDERABLE STRAIN ON THEIR MORALE AND CONCEIVABLY IMPAIRING THEIR FUTURE RELATIONS WITH LOCAL STAFF. OSBORN

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